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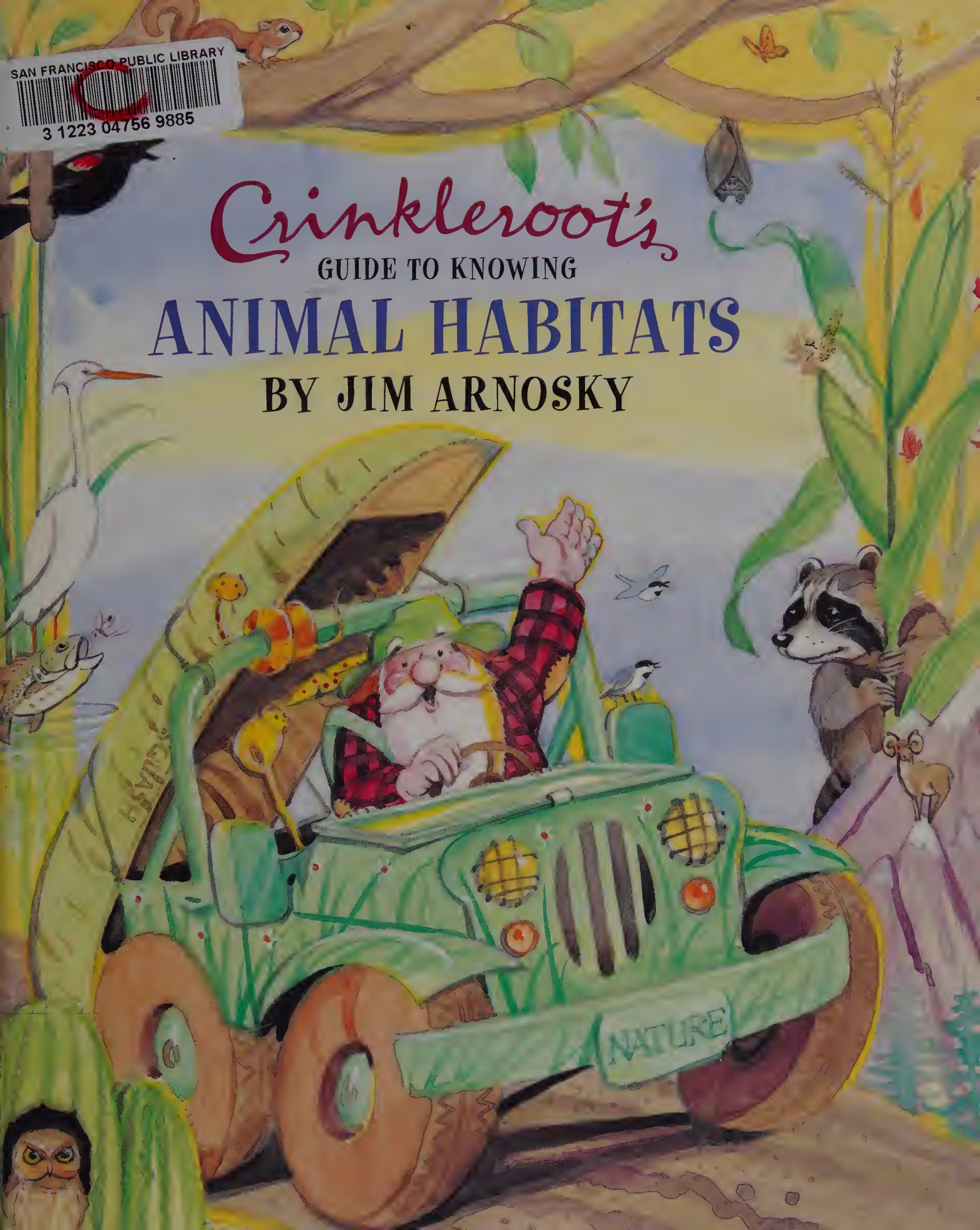
Crinkleroot's GUIDE TO KNOWING ANIMAL HABITATS

BY JIM ARNOSKY



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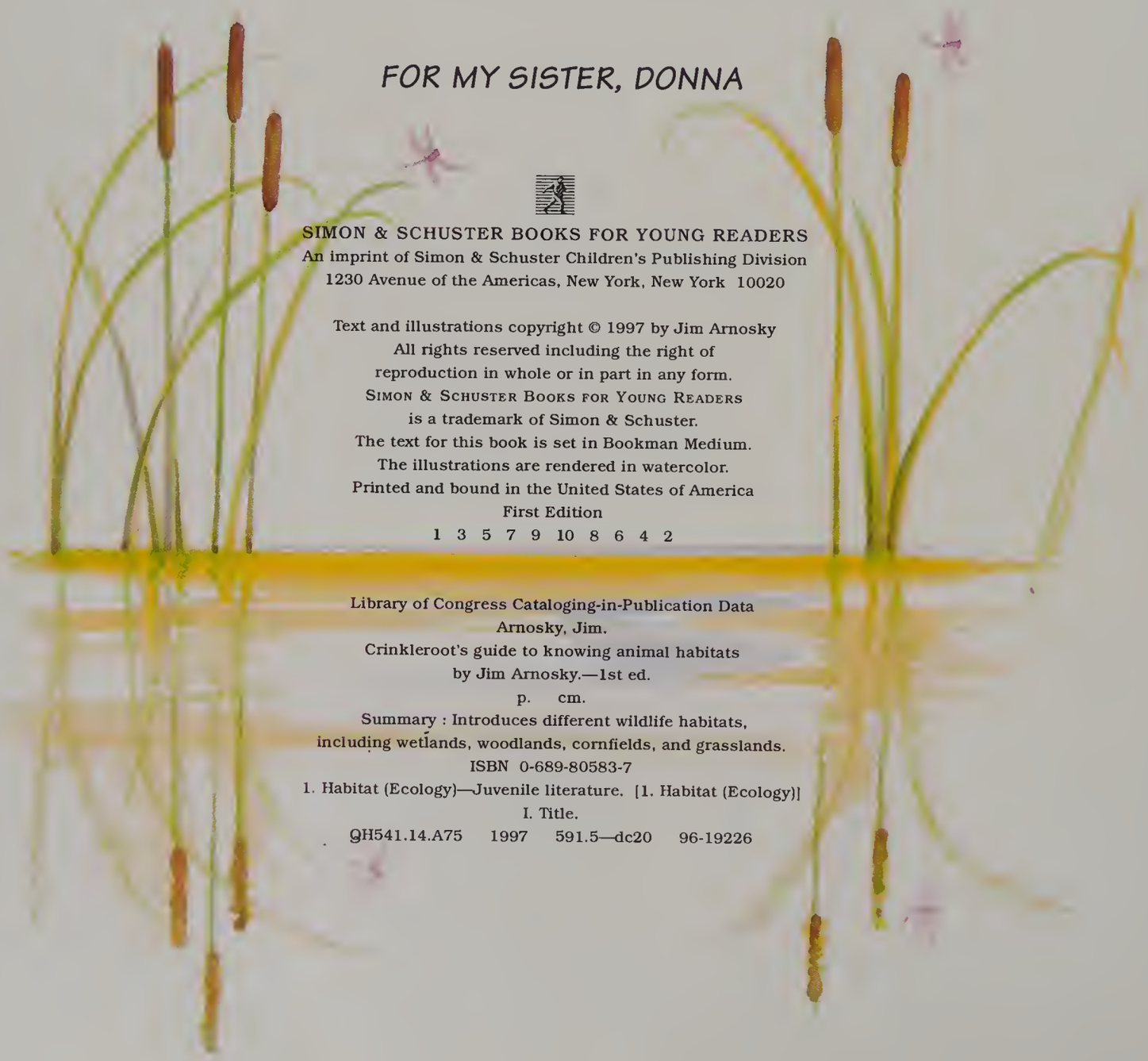
Crinkleroot's
NATURE GUIDES:

I Was Born in a Tree and Raised by Bees
Crinkleroot's Book of Animal Tracking
Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Butterflies & Moths
Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Birds
Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees
Crinkleroot's Guide to Walking in Wild Places
Crinkleroot's 25 Birds Every Child Should Know
Crinkleroot's 25 Fish Every Child Should Know
Crinkleroot's 25 Mammals Every Child Should Know
Crinkleroot's 25 More Animals Every Child Should Know



FOR MY SISTER, DONNA

SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS
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Crinkleroot's
GUIDE TO KNOWING
ANIMAL HABITATS
BY JIM ARNOSKY

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Hello! My name is Crinkleroot. I'm an explorer and a wildlife finder. I've found so many wild creatures sharing this sweet earth, I lost count somewhere around a billion!

MUSQUASH

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I see so many wild critters because I know where they all live. The natural places where wild animals live are called habitats.

I'm going to visit lots of different wildlife habitats. You can come too!

THE THREE THINGS WILDLIFE
NEED TO SURVIVE ARE:
FOOD,
COVER
(HIDING PLACES),
AND WATER.
FIND ALL THREE,
AND YOU WILL FIND
WILDLIFE.

The first place I want to show you is a watery place, or wetland.

A wetland is any place where water is near, at, or just above the surface of the ground. You may have a tiny wetland in your own backyard where the soil is always moist and the grass grows more lush.

NOTE: SOME TYPES OF WETLANDS ARE NOT FIRM ENOUGH TO WALK ON. THE BEST WAY TO OBSERVE MOST WETLANDS IS IN THE COMPANY OF AN ADULT AND FROM THE SAFETY OF HIGHER GROUND OR A STURDY BOARDWALK.

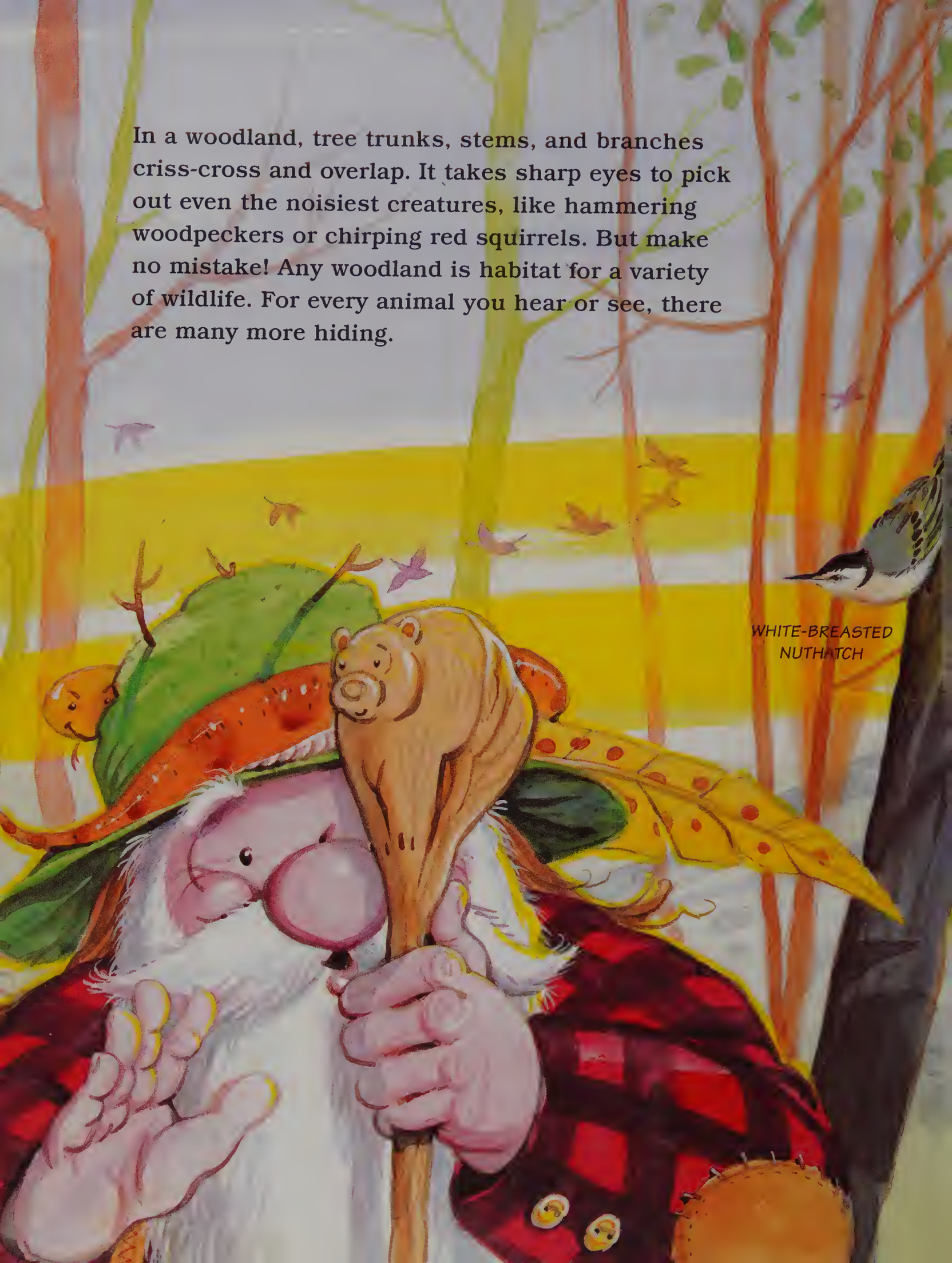
The three most common wetlands are marshes, swamps, and bogs. A marsh is full of tall grasses, cattails, and reeds. Here water is above ground in many spots.

EGRET
ANHINGA
OTTER
ALLIGATOR
A swamp is a place where many woody plants grow and water covers nearly all the land.
MUD TURTLE
LITTLE BLUE HERON
WATER MOCCASIN
A bog is a place where the land actually floats on water.
MOOSE

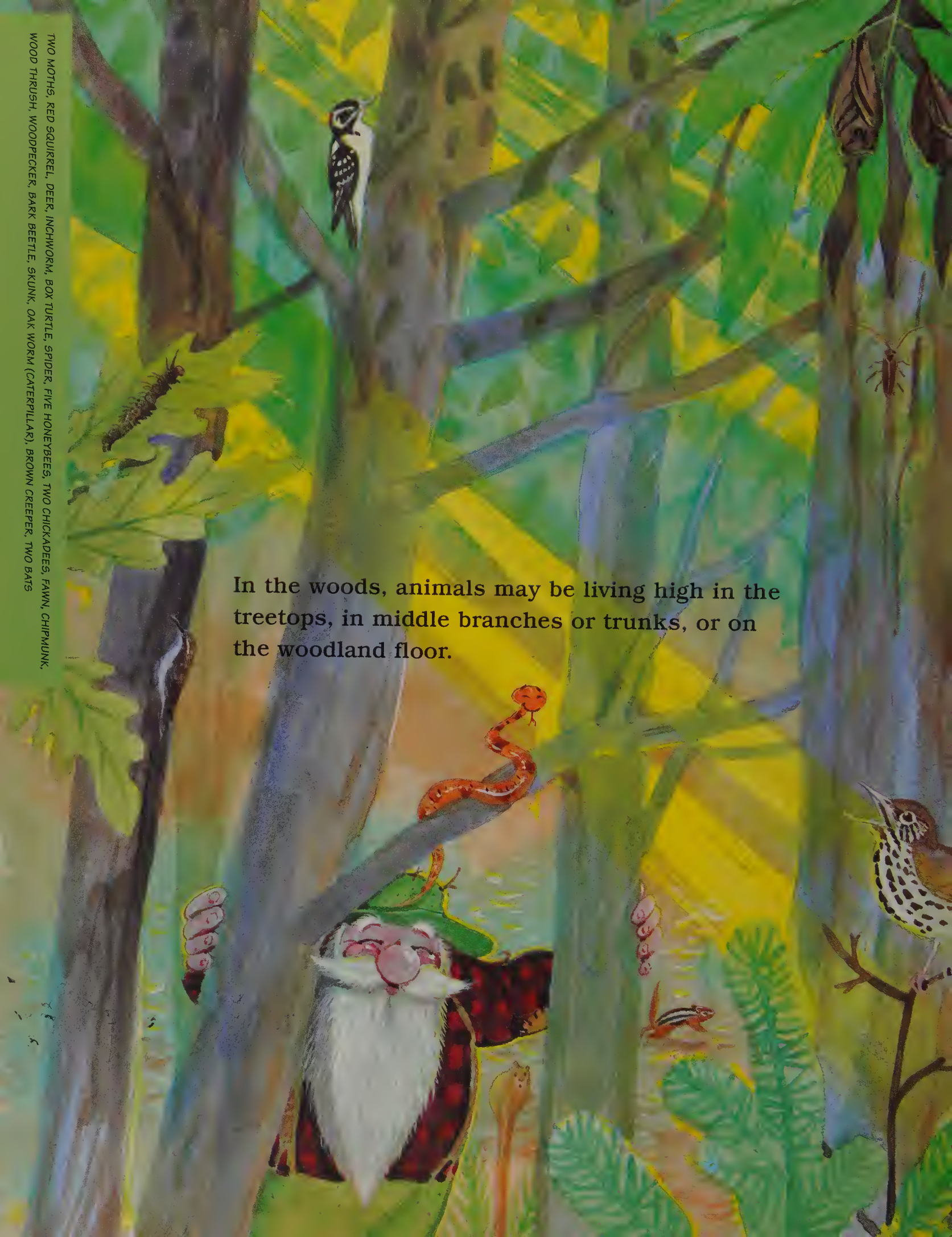
The shallow water of any wetland is a world of plants, rocks, sand, and sunken trees.

It is a rich weedy habitat for underwater wildlife.

In a woodland, tree trunks, stems, and branches criss-cross and overlap. It takes sharp eyes to pick out even the noisiest creatures, like hammering woodpeckers or chirping red squirrels. But make no mistake! Any woodland is habitat for a variety of wildlife. For every animal you hear or see, there are many more hiding.



RED
SQUIRREL
GREAT
HORNED
OWL



In the woods, animals may be living high in the treetops, in middle branches or trunks, or on the woodland floor.

TWO MOTHS, RED SQUIRREL, DEER, INCHWORM, BOX TURTLE, SPIDER, FIVE HONEYBEES, TWO CHICKADEES, FAWN, CHIPMUNK, WOOD THRUSH, WOODPECKER, BARK BEETLE, SKUNK, OAK WORM (CATERPILLAR), BROWN CREEPER, TWO BATS

See if you can find the wildlife living in this little patch of woods. (I'll give you a hint: there are twenty-four in all. Twenty-seven if you count walking stick, Sassafrass, and me.)

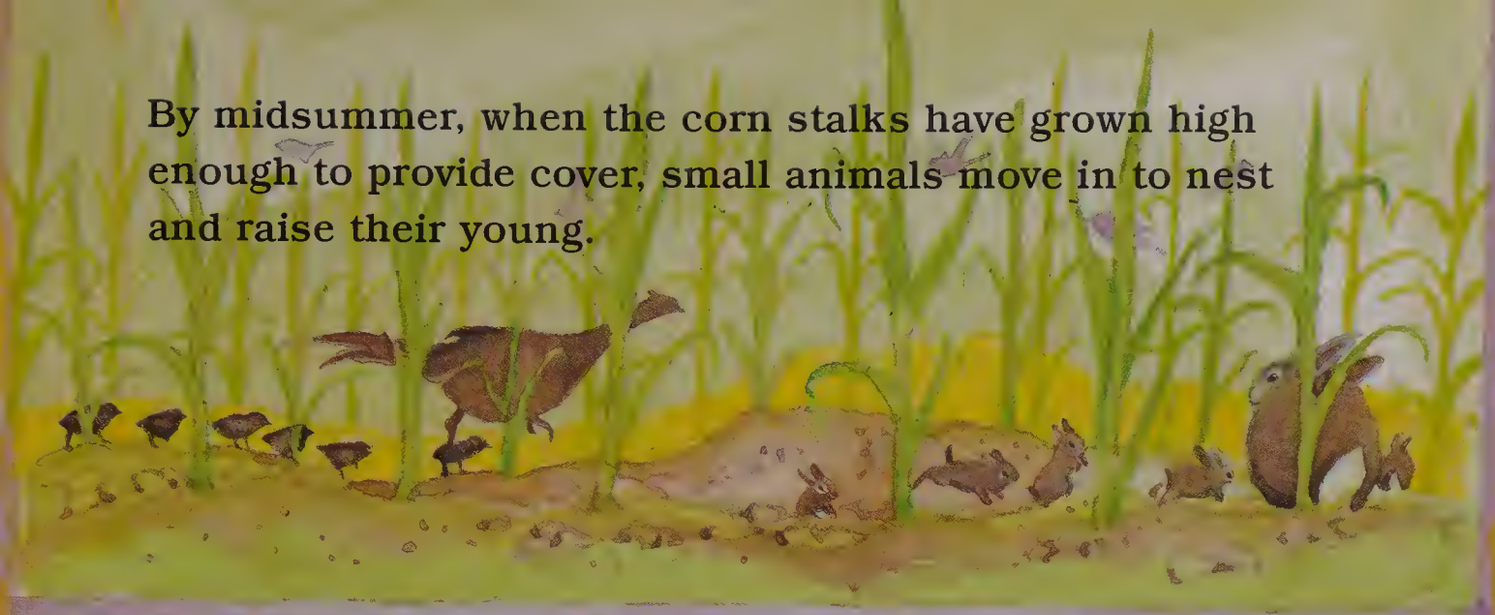
Climb aboard my old jalopy! There are some interesting places I want to show you that are miles apart. Along the way, we're sure to spot some wildlife near the road.
CROWS
RING-NECKED PHEASANT
DEER
WOODCHUCK

Rabbits, deer, woodchucks, and other normally shy animals come out to the roadsides to feed on lush green plants growing in the open sunlight.

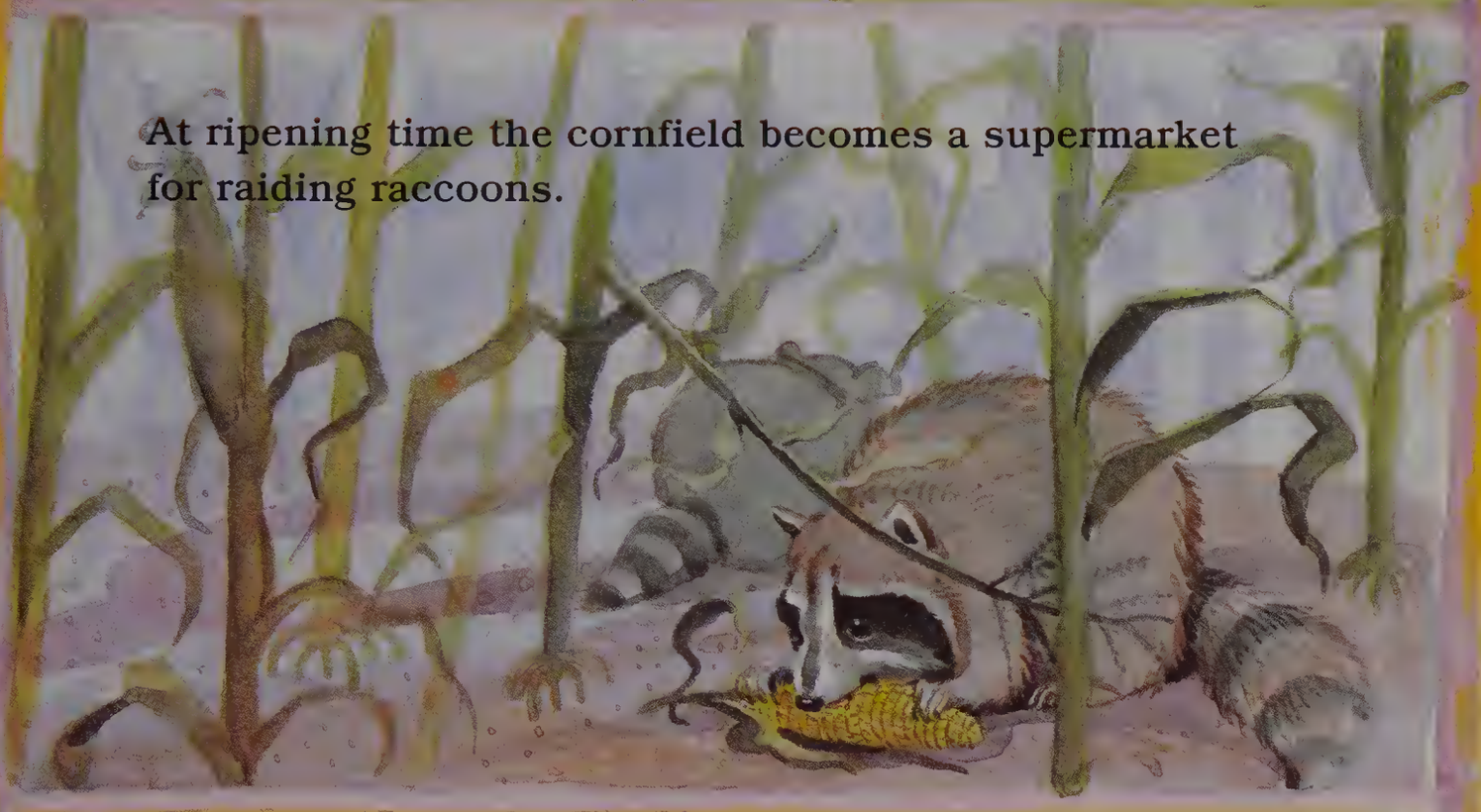
Roadsides are also hunting grounds for hungry crows, hawks, and kestrels.

Our first stop is a farmer's cornfield. Cornfields provide an ever-changing habitat for wildlife. In the spring gulls, swallows, and bluebirds feed on beetles, grubs, and earthworms unearthed by the farmer's plow.

By midsummer, when the corn stalks have grown high enough to provide cover, small animals move in to nest and raise their young.



At ripening time the cornfield becomes a supermarket for raiding raccoons.



By late fall, after the field of corn has been freshly cut and harvested, the scattered kernels are a feast for migrating geese.

MOST SMALL GRASSLAND ANIMALS ARE BIRDS OR BURROWERS—OR BOTH!

From small hillside meadows to vast rolling plains, grasslands are wide open spaces where wildlife can thrive.

GOLDFINCH

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

TICK

WHEN WALKING IN GRASSLAND, STOP TO CHECK YOUR CLOTHES FOR TICKS. TICKS ARE NUMEROUS IN TALL GRASS.

YOU'LL FIND MORE KINDS OF INSECTS AND SPIDERS IN GRASSLANDS THAN IN ANY OTHER HABITAT.

THE LARGEST INHABITANTS OF GRASSLANDS ARE GRAZING ANIMALS.

At first, grassland looks void of anything but waving green stems. But take time to really look and you will discover something wonderful.

THE BADGER IS A GRASSLAND PREDATOR THAT CAN DIG DOWN TWELVE FEET TO CATCH BURROWING PREY.

THE COYOTE AND RED FOX ARE OPEN COUNTRY PREDATORS THAT OFTEN SHARE THE SAME HUNTING GROUNDS.

SPIDER

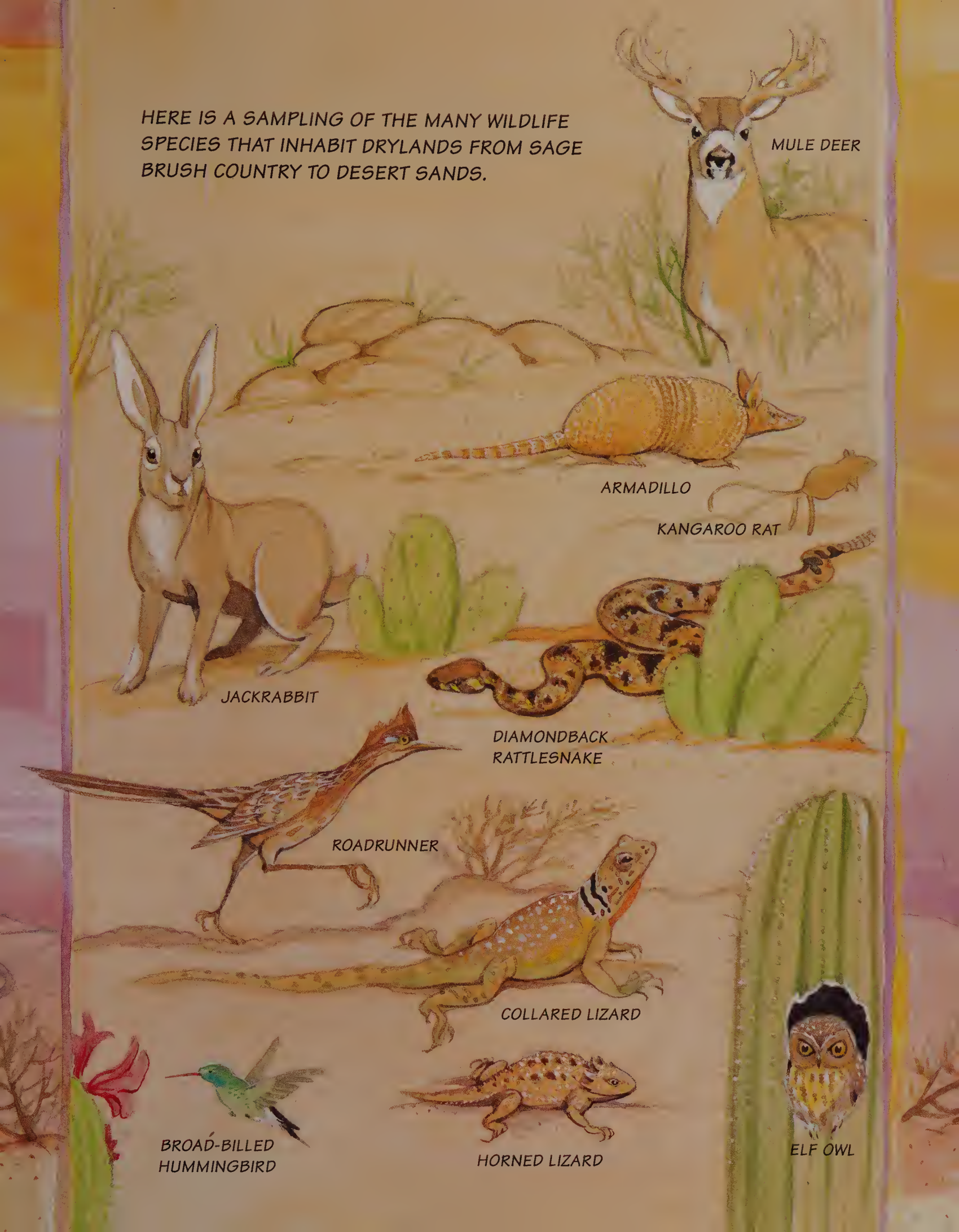
GRASSHOPPER

VOLE

WOODCHUCK

VULTURE

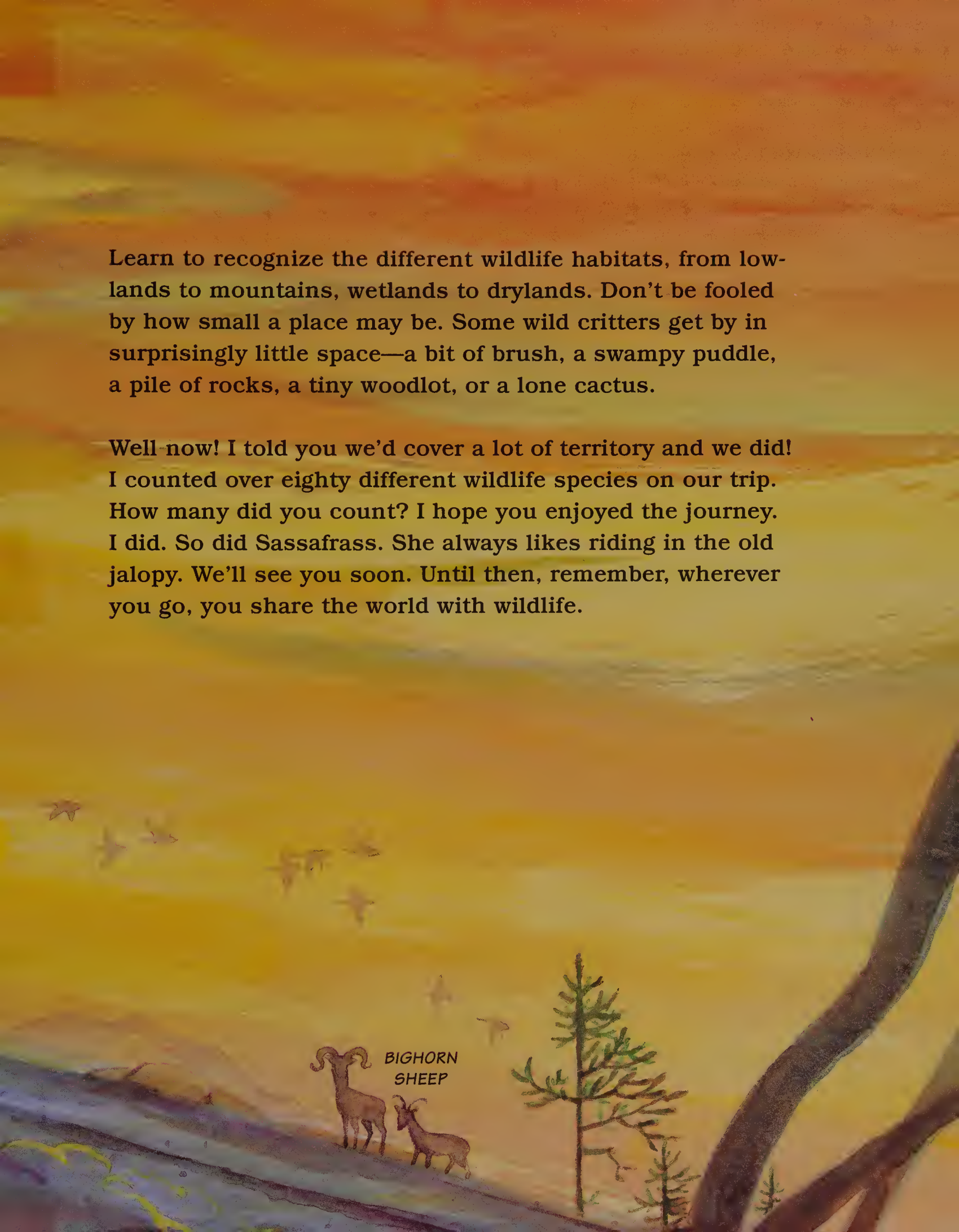
Wherever the road leads, you will find wildlife living there. Even the hottest, driest places can be home to animals. In the drylands, wildlife find cover behind sage brush and cactus, beneath rock ledges, or for some, simply by digging in and covering up with sand. Succulent plants provide both food and water. And for predators, there is prey.


HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THE MANY WILDLIFE SPECIES THAT INHABIT DRYLANDS FROM SAGE BRUSH COUNTRY TO DESERT SANDS.
MULE DEER
ARMADILLO
KANGAROO RAT
JACKRABBIT
DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE
ROADRUNNER
COLLARED LIZARD
BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD
HORNED LIZARD
ELF OWL

RAVEN
NATURE
PIKA

Learn to recognize the different wildlife habitats, from lowlands to mountains, wetlands to drylands. Don't be fooled by how small a place may be. Some wild critters get by in surprisingly little space—a bit of brush, a swampy puddle, a pile of rocks, a tiny woodlot, or a lone cactus.

Well now! I told you we'd cover a lot of territory and we did! I counted over eighty different wildlife species on our trip. How many did you count? I hope you enjoyed the journey. I did. So did Sassafrass. She always likes riding in the old jalopy. We'll see you soon. Until then, remember, wherever you go, you share the world with wildlife.



$13.00 US
$17.50 CAN
Ages 4–10

Join the folksy, friendly woodsman, Crinkleroot, and his snake, Sassafrass, on a fascinating journey through a wide variety of animal habitats.

Crinkleroot is an expert at finding animals because he knows where to look for them. In his jeep Crinkleroot covers a lot of ground, spotting over eighty different wildlife species in wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, drylands, and more. Along the way, readers will learn tips for finding wildlife in their own neck of the woods.

JIM ARNOSKY

won the Eva L. Gordon Award for his outstanding children's science literature and the Christopher Award for his classic work, *Drawing from Nature.* As *School Library Journal* says, "Nobody captures nature's whims and wiles better than Jim Arnosky." His Crinkleroot character was inspired by nineteenth-century naturalist John Burroughs. This is the eleventh book in the popular Crinkleroot series. Mr. Arnosky lives in South Ryegate, Vermont.

Cover illustration © 1997 by Jim Arnosky

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